

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4437

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 64TH HQ COMMITTEE APPROVES PLANS TO START 6TH BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION

REF: PARIS 20448

1. 64TH SESSION OF GENCONF'S HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE APPROVED
RESOLUTION OCT 30 INVITING DG TO IMPLEMENT SIXTH BUILDING PROJECT
IN TWO STAGES, AND HEARD DG'S REPORT ON PROGRESS OF HEADQUARTERS
REMODELLING WORK WHICH DG PROMISED WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN
BUDGET ALLOCATED BY 17TH GEN CONF.

2. TEXT OF RESOLUTION APPROVED WITH ONLY US ABSTAINING FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE,

1. RECALLING RESOLUTIONS 16 C/35 AND 17 C/25 ADOPTED BY THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE AT ITS SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH SESSIONS
RESPECTIVELY,

2. RECALLING THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION (63 HQ/REPORT, PARAGRAPH 29), AND THE HOPE
EXPRESSED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE SIXTY-
THIRD SESSION THAT THE INITIAL ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTION MIGHT BE
AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ADHERED TO (63 HQ/REPORT, PARAGRAPHS 15 AND 16),
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3. HAVING EXAMINED THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WITH THE HELP OF THE ARCHITECT, TO IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RESOLUTIONS (64 HQ/3 AND 64 HQ/INF.1),

4. HAVING HEARD THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE,

5. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN ORDER THAT THE EARTHWORK OPERATIONS MAY BEGIN IN DECEMBER 1973 AND THAT THE BUILDING MAY REMAIN IN CONFORMITY WITH THE INITIAL PROJECT ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE;

6. NOTES THE INCREASES IN THE COST OF LABOUR AND MATERIALS OCCURRING DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973;

7. DECIDES TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE TENDERING FOR THE FIRST LOTS BEFORE CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THESE INCREASES;

8. INVITES THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EIGHTH TOWER OF THE BUILDING AT THE SECOND STAGE, AND TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE MOVEMENT OF COSTS;

9. REQUESTS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ACCELERATE THE REQUISITIONING OPERATIONS AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE ORGANIZATION THE PLOTS CURRENTLY BEING ACQUIRED, FREE OF ALL SERVITUDES AND BULDINGS, BEFORE 1 APRIL 1974;

10. INVITES THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO REPORT TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED OPERATIONS. UNQUOTE.

3. FRENCH PERM REP INFORMED COMMITTEE THAT REQUISITIONING OF CONTESTED PARCEL OF LAND NOW IN PROGRESS, BUT MIGHT TAKE LONGER TIME THAN ENVISAGED BY COMMITTEE; NAMELY, APRIL 1, 1974. WE SAID THAT OTHER PARCELS OF LAND REQUIRED FOR FIRST STAGE-- WHICH INCLUDES SEVEN TOWERS VARYING IN HEIGHT FROM 8 TO 12 FLOORS--WOULD BE FREE FOR UNESCO BUILDERS TO BEGIN EARTH WORK SOMETIME BETWEEN DEC. 15 AND 31, 1973. EARTHWORK FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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FIRST STATE IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 15-30, 1974, AND TOTAL CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN TOWERS WITHIN 18 MONTHS. THE FIRST STAGE PROJECT WILL PROVIDE 412 OFFICES AND SHOULD BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY BY LATE 1976. CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHTH TOWER, WHICH CAN ONLY BEGIN WHEN CONTESTED LAND IS TURNED OVER TO UNESCO BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT, IS EXPECTED TO TAKE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS. THIS 12 STORY TOWER WILL CONTAIN 128 OFFICES.

4. AS FRENCH BUILDING COST INFLATION RATE IS NOW RUNNING AT 13.52-0/0 RATHER THAN EARLIER ESTIMATE OF 9-0/0, DG SAID IT NOT POSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ORIGINALLY APPROVED PROJECT. 17TH GC APPROVED AN EXPENDITURE OF 67,000,000 FRENCH FRANCS FOR ENTIRE SIXTH BUILDING. AS A CONSEQUENCE, DG PROPOSED AND COMMITTEE AGREED TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE TENDERING FOR THE FIRST TWO LOTS (TOTALLING AN ESTIMATED 32-0/0 OF TOTAL COST) BEFORE CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS HE WILL PROPOSE TO MEET ESTIMATED INCREASE IN OVERALL COST.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CERTAIN DG WILL HAVE TO ASK 18TH GC FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLET EIGHTH TOWER OR SECOND STAGE OF 6TH BUILDING PROJECT. HOWEVER, BUILDING IS NOW FAIT ACCOMPLI AND ALL MEMBERS HDQ COMM--EXCEPT US--SEEM PREPARED GO ALONG SO LONG AS COST KEPT AT MINIMUM AND EVERY EFFORT MADE INSURE MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. SECRETARIAT PRESENTED PLANS FOR ACCEPTION, BIDS IN MUCH DETAIL. UK MEMBER WHO IS SPECIALIST IN GOVT CONTRACTS WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH SIMILARITY OF UNESCO PROCEDURE TO THAT OF UK. TAKING ALL INTO ACCOUNT IF PROJECT PROCEEDS AS OUTLINED IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN 18TH GC WILL APPROVE FUNDS FOR COMPLETION.

6. AS NEW ITEM ADDED TO AGENDA, CHAIRMAN (CUEVAS-CANCINO) AND DG REPORTED THAT SIX PERMANENT DELEGATIONS HAD FAILED TO PAY THEIR RENT TO ROGANIZATION FOR OFFICE SPACE IN UNESCO'S FIFTH BUILDING AND HAVE FAILED FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS TO RESPOND TO URGENT APPEAL FROM DG THAT THEY DO SO. DG SAID THAT THIS FAILURE, ALONG WITH SLOW PAYMENT OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS, WAS LEAVING ORGANIZATION IN VERY TIGHT CASH POSITION. COMMITTEE APPROVED DG'S DECISION TO SEND SECOND AND STRONGER APPEAL TO ALL DELINQUENT PER-
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MANENT DELEGATIONS AND AGREED TO CONSIDER "STRONGER" MEASURES AGAINST DELINQUENTS, IF PAYMENT NOT PAID WITHIN REASONABLE TIME.

7. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1974.IRWIN

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